

THE BATMAN

ADVENTURES



PAUL DINI
BRUCE TIMM



PSYCHOTIC, MASS-MURDERING CLOWNS
AND THE WOMEN WHO LOVE THEM.

THE BATMAN

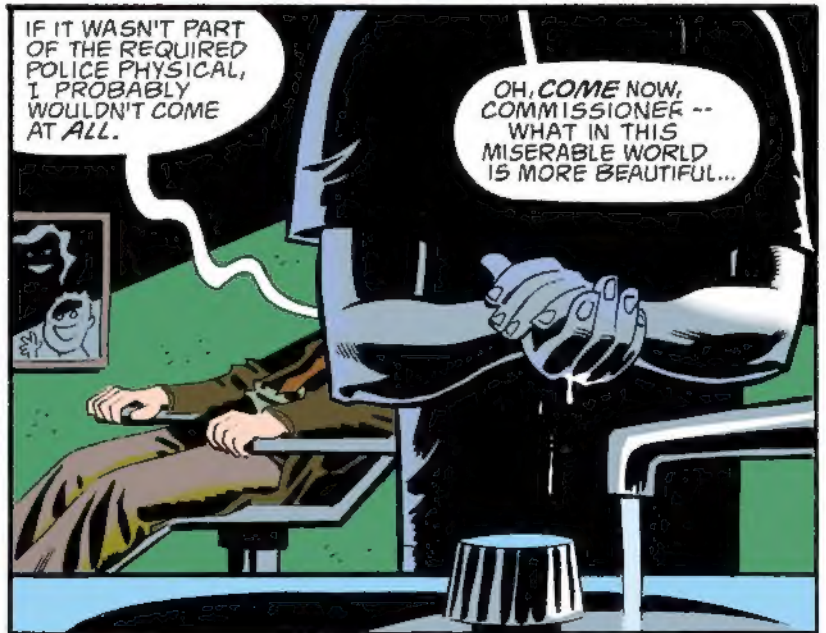
A D V E N T U R E S

"MAD LOVE"



PAUL DINI
BRUCE TIMM

B.T.
'95





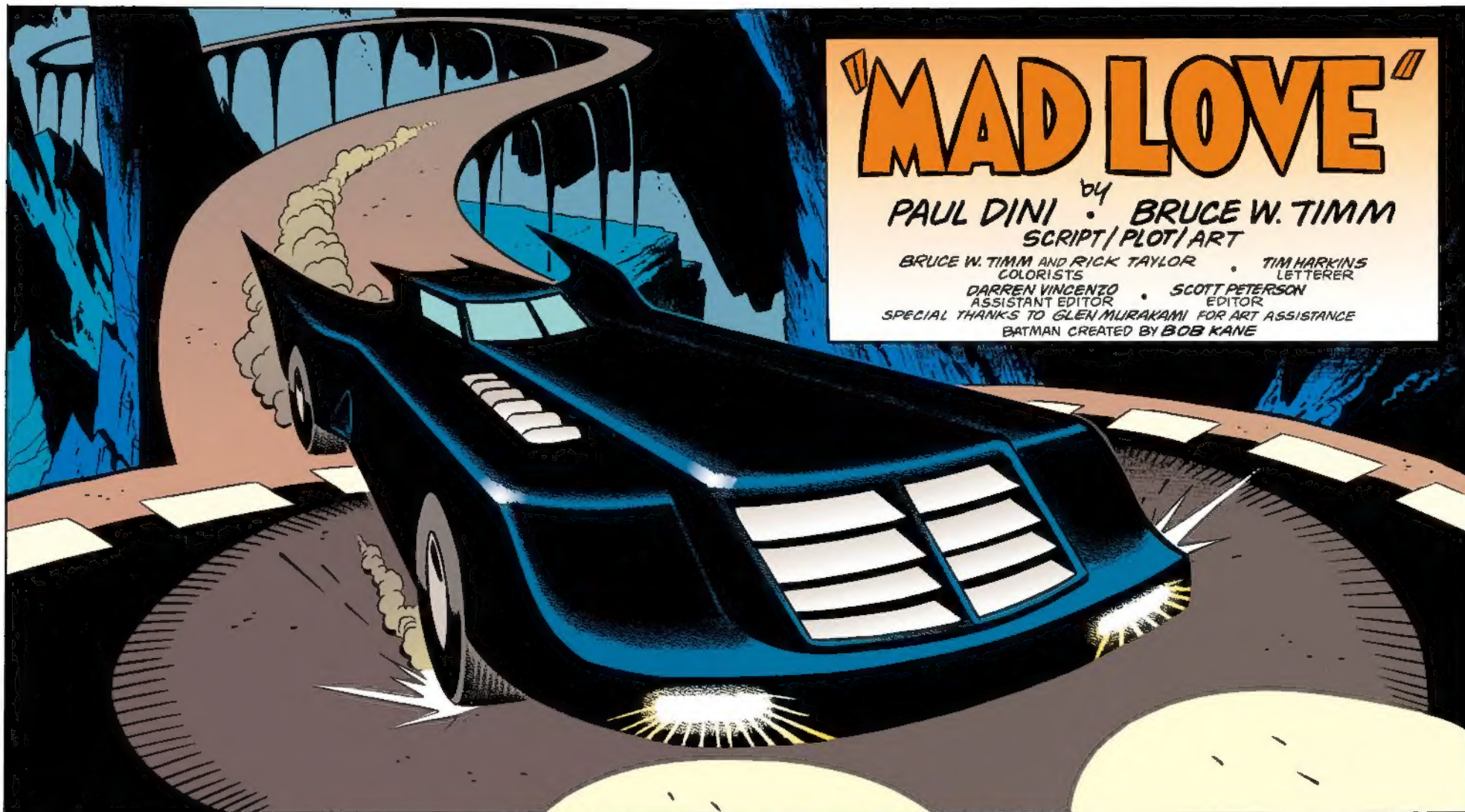












'MAD LOVE'

by
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SCRIPT/PLOT/ART

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ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR

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BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

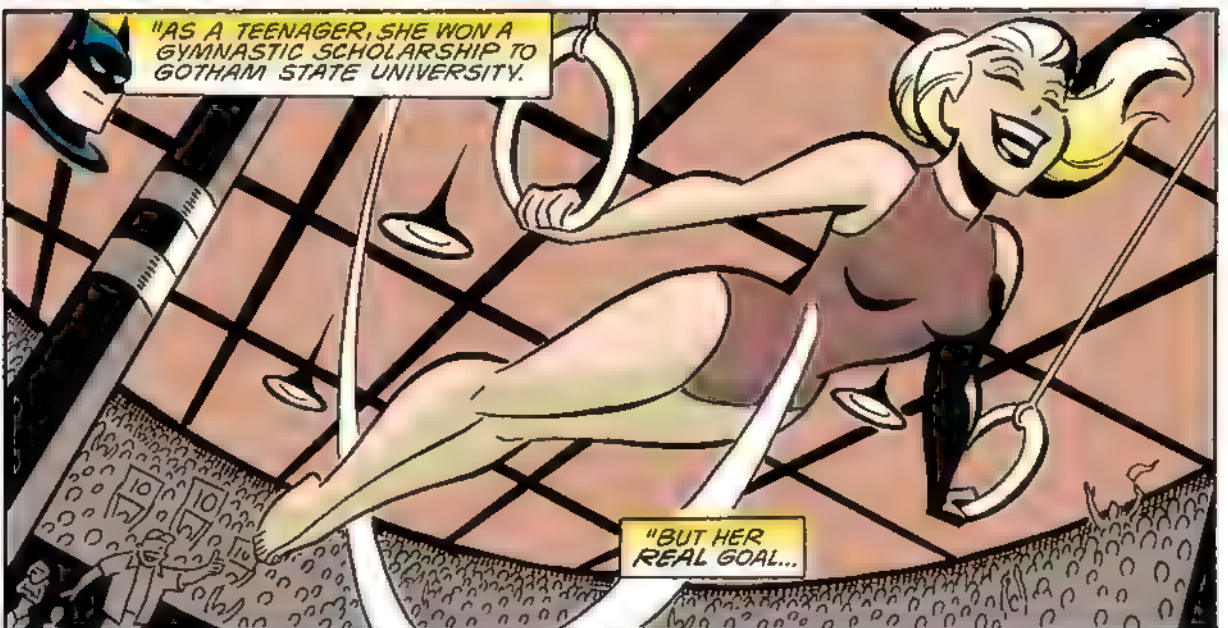
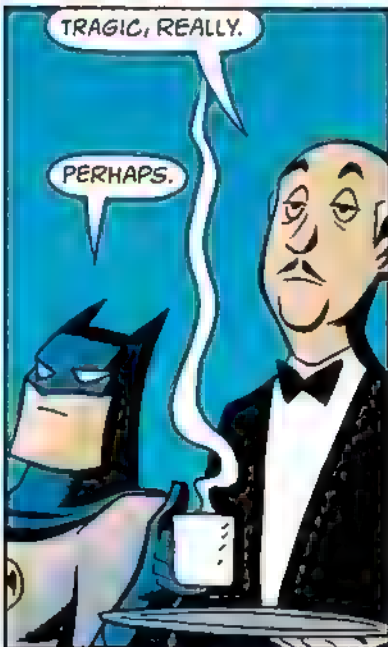
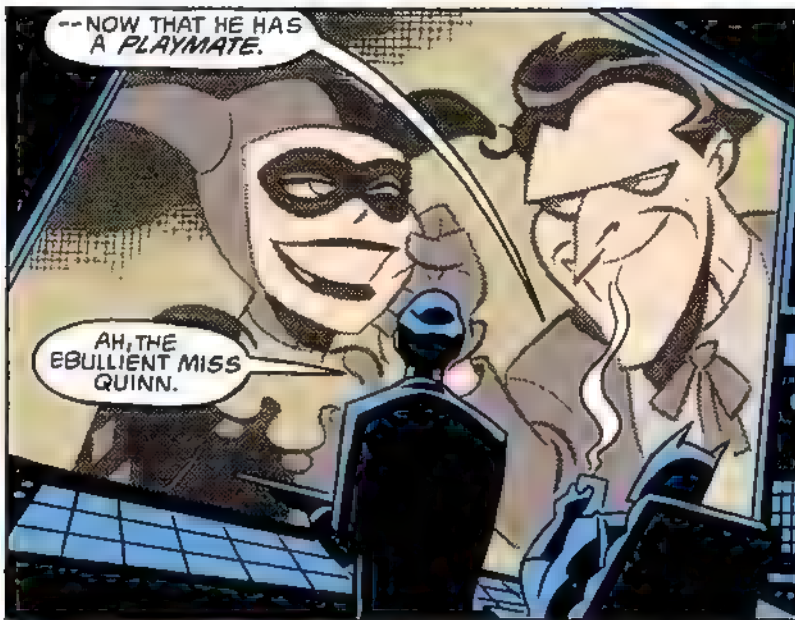


AS YOU'RE BACK IN ONE
PIECE, I ASSUME YOUR
CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
JOKER WAS SUCCESSFUL?

I STOPPED HIM
FROM KILLING GORDON
IF THAT'S WHAT
YOU MEAN.

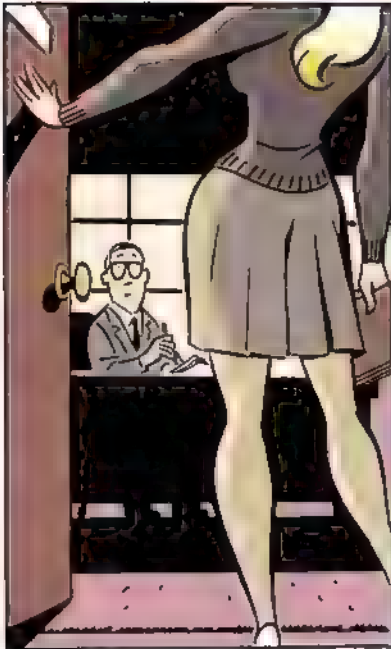


I WASN'T ABLE TO
NAIL HIM, THOUGH. HE'S
BECOME MORE SLIPPERY
THAN EVER...





"...WAS A DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S PRESTIGIOUS PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT."

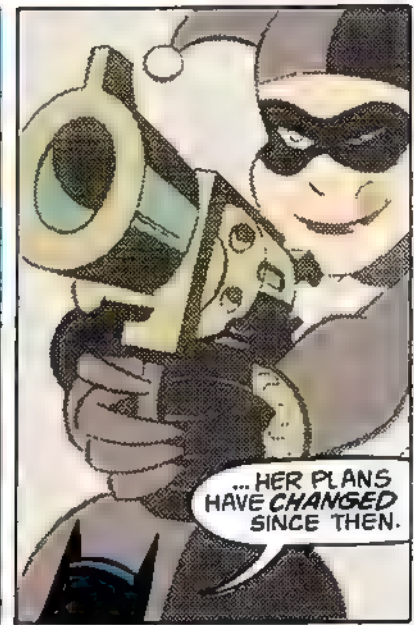


"NEVER MIND THAT SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GET IT BY STUDYING."



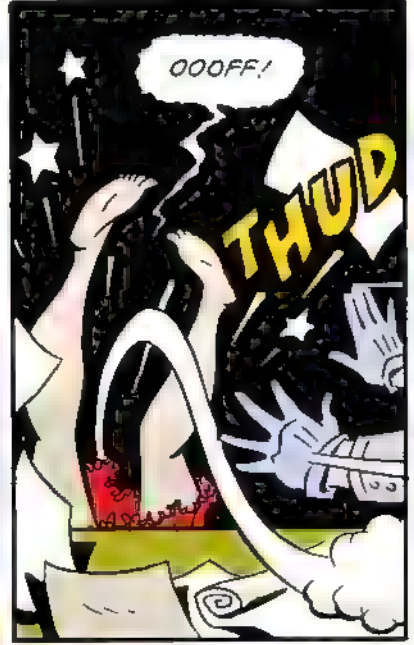
I SEEM TO RECALL SHE WAS GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE ANNOYING POP PSYCHOLOGISTS, WITH HER OWN LINE OF SELF-HELP BOOKS AND SUCH.

NEEDLESS TO SAY...



...HER PLANS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THEN.







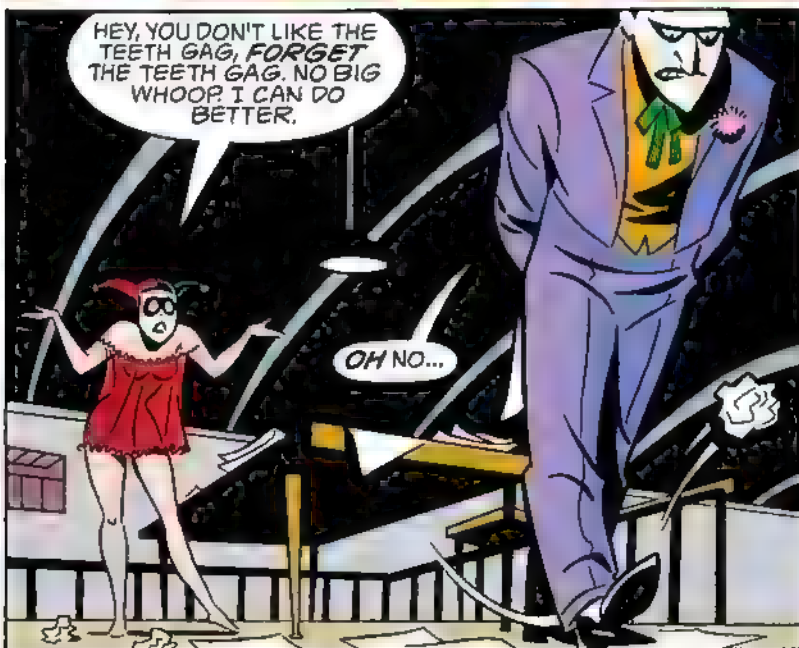
LISTEN, CUPCAKE.

DADDY'S GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO AND YOU'RE NOT HELPING.



JUST LIKE YOU WEREN'T HELPING TODAY...

...WITH THAT STUPID CHATTERING TEETH GAG!!



HEY, YOU DON'T LIKE THE TEETH GAG, *FORGET* THE TEETH GAG. NO BIG WHOOP I CAN DO BETTER.

OH NO...



--I LET YOU COLLABORATE ONCE AND YOU BLEW IT. MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...

...BATMAN WAS RIGHT.



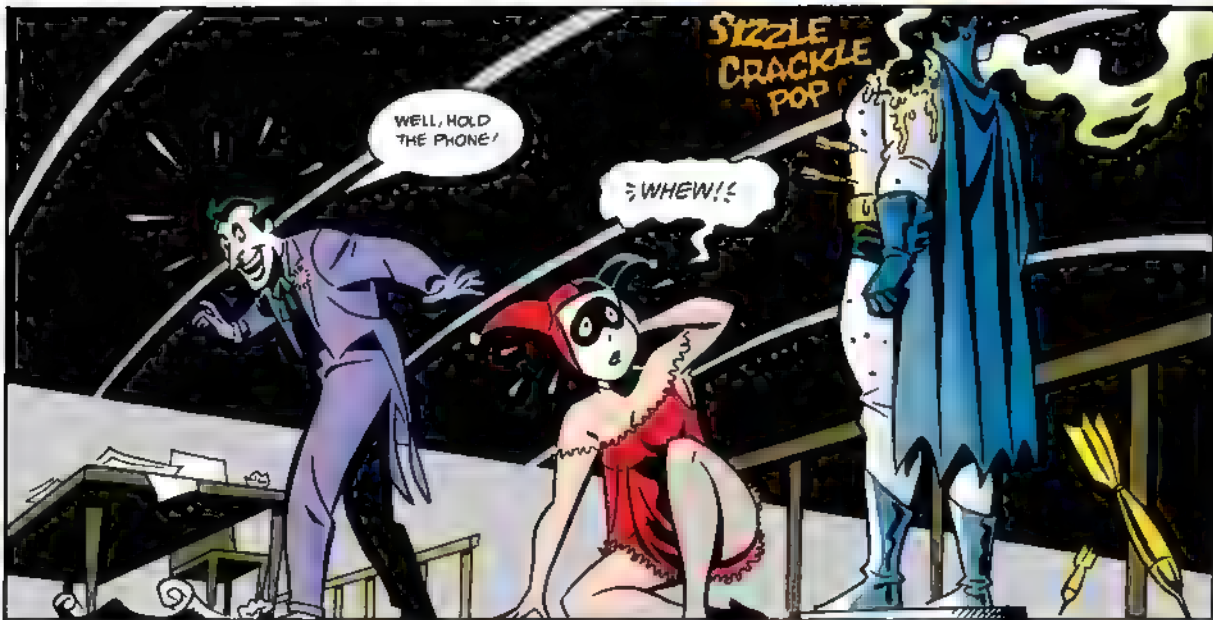
THAT SETUP TODAY WAS CORNY, OLD-HAT.

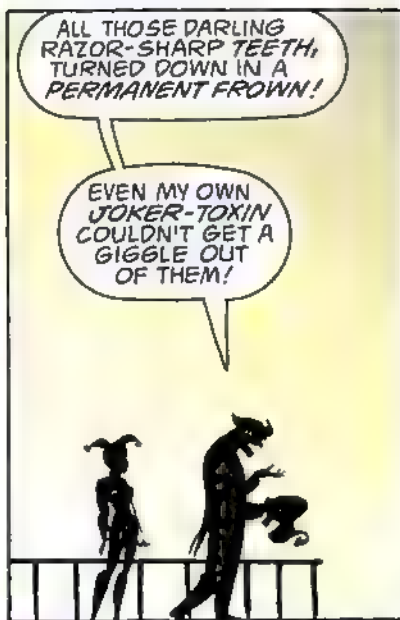
I THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY...

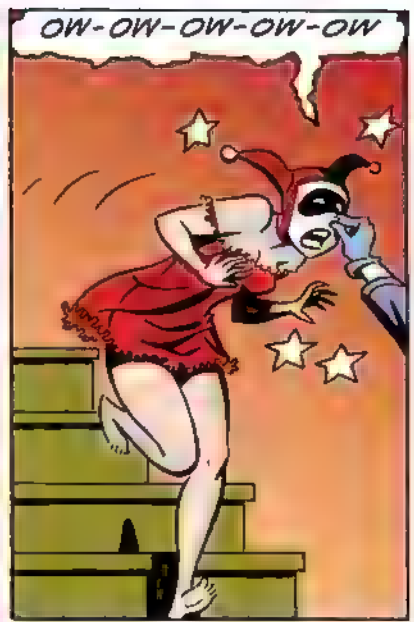


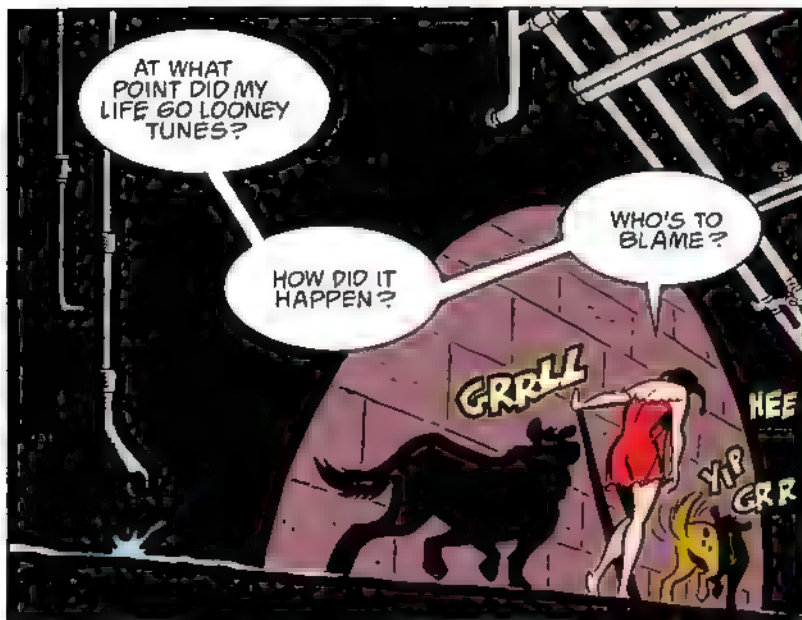
IT'S TIME I CAPPED OFF THIS RUNNING FEUD WITH A REAL CORKER. THE ULTIMATE HUMILIATION OF BATMAN--

--FOLLOWED BY HIS DELICIOUSLY DELIRIOUS DEATH.











"MY FIRST
DAY AT
ARKHAM..."



"GOSH, I WAS
SO NERVOUS."

"AND...
JAZZED."



HARLEEN QUINZEL?
I'M JOAN LELAND.

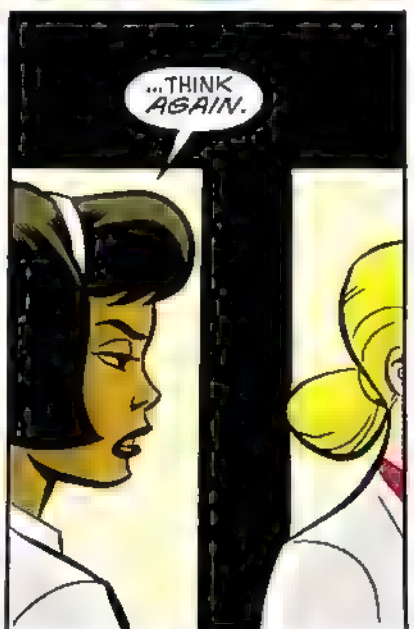
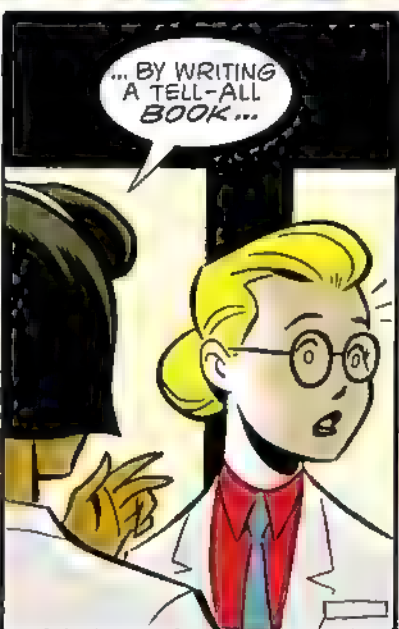
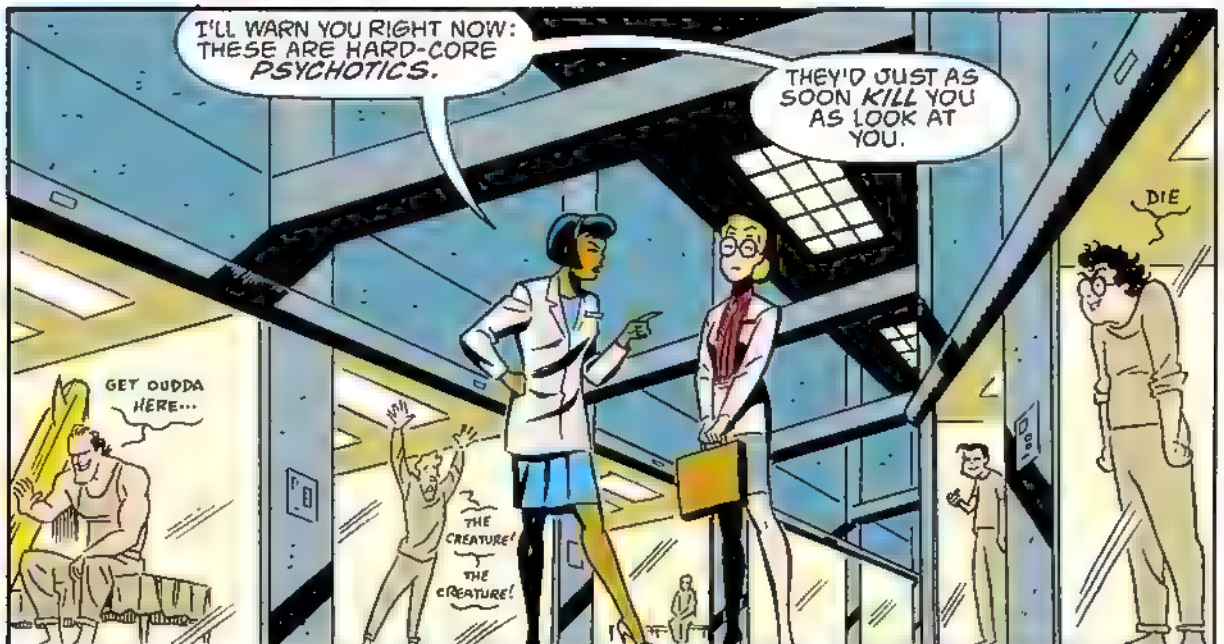
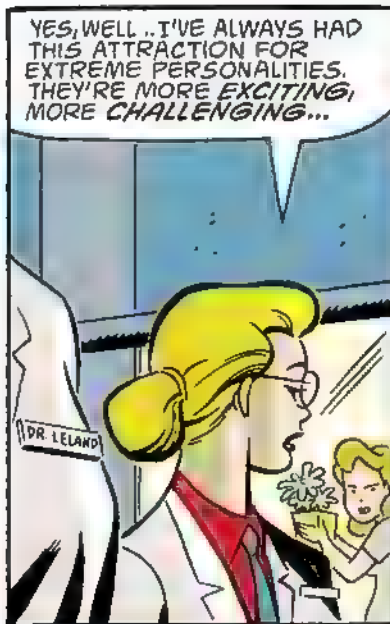
HI, JOAN.
CALL ME HARLEY.

EVERYONE
DOES.



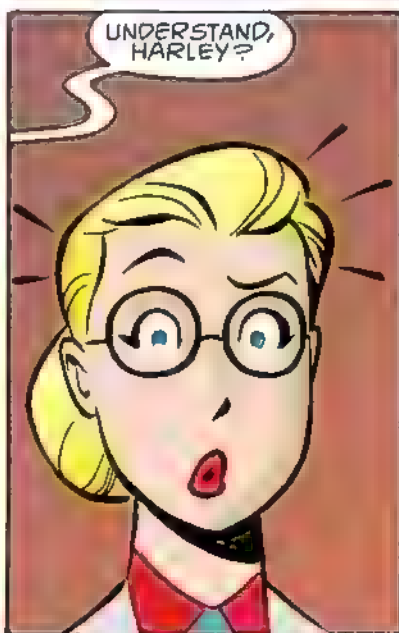
I MUST ADMIT I
WAS SURPRISED YOU
WANTED TO INTERN
HERE AT ARKHAM. ANYONE
WHO HAD GONE THROUGH
MED SCHOOL WITH
YOUR HIGH GRADES...

...COULD'VE
WRITTEN HER TICKET
ANYWHERE.





THEY'D EAT A NOVICE
LIKE YOU FOR
BREAKFAST

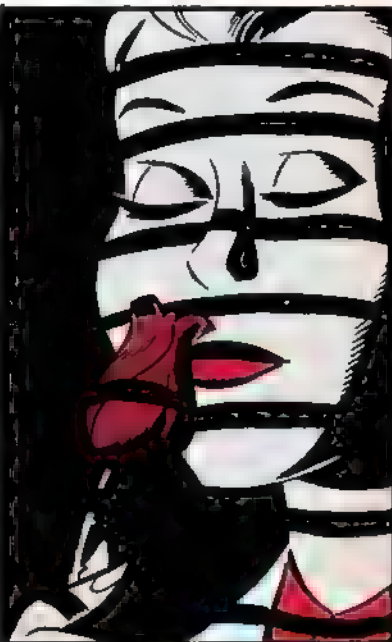
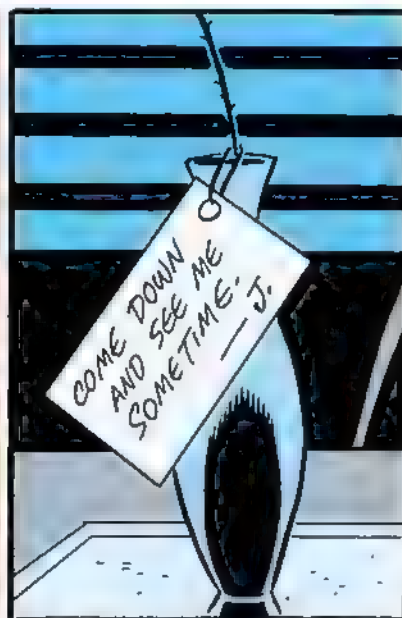
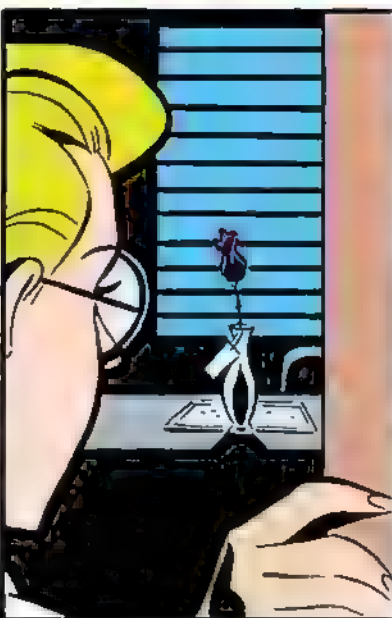
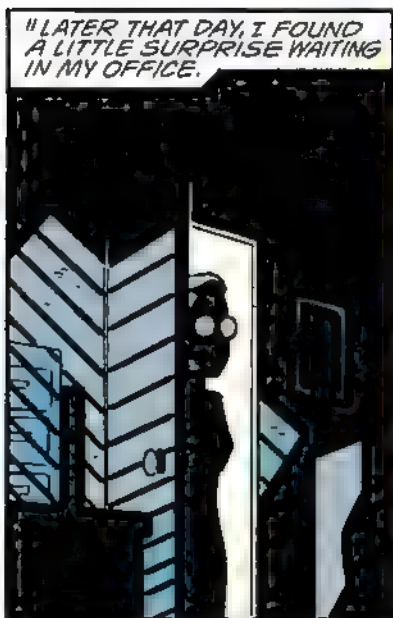


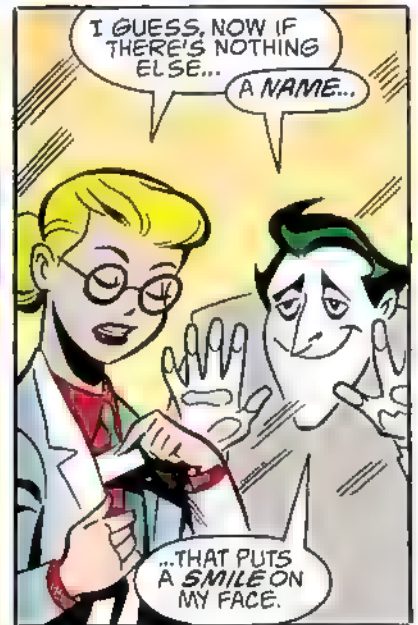
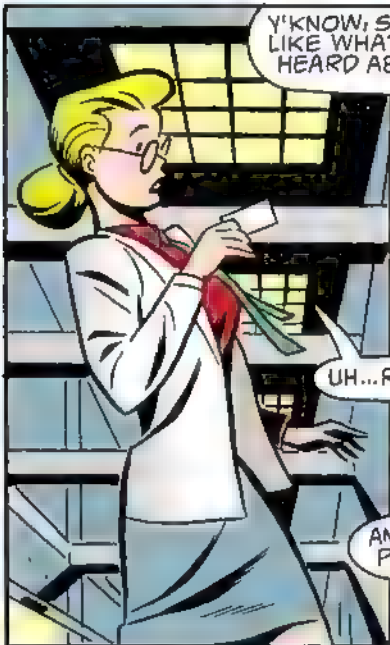
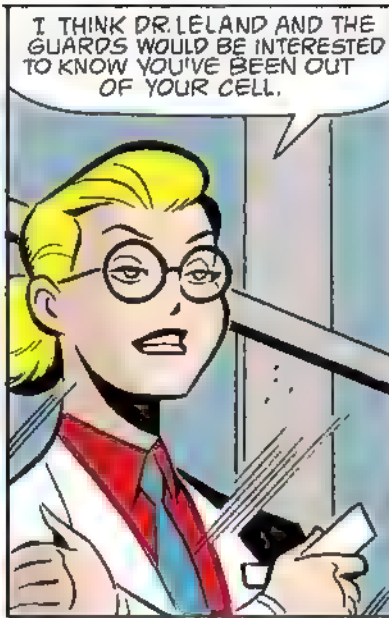
UNDERSTAND,
HARLEY?

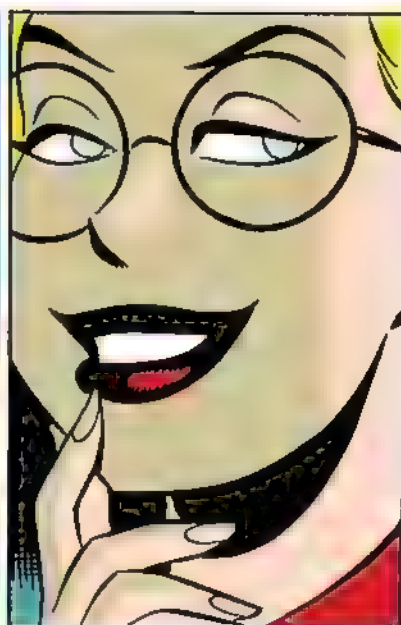


OH! ABSOLUTELY!

"LATER THAT DAY, I FOUND
A LITTLE SURPRISE WAITING
IN MY OFFICE."



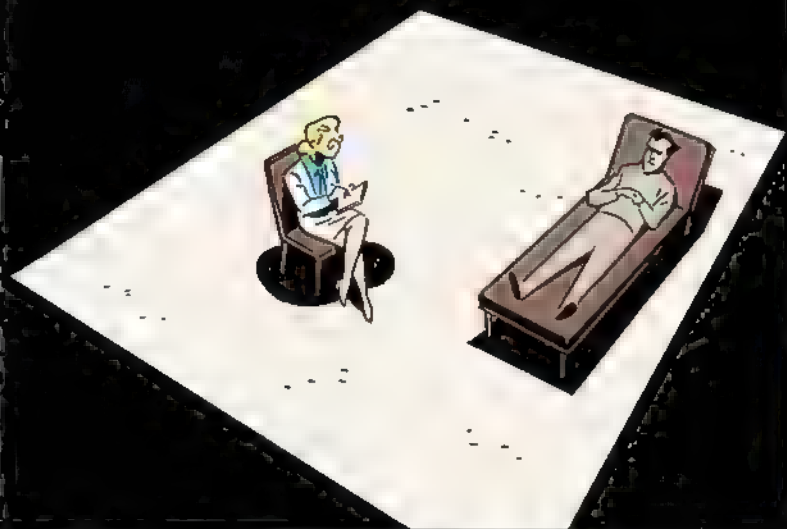




"IT TOOK NEARLY THREE MONTHS OF PLEADING BEFORE DR. LELAND FINALLY GAVE IN AND LET ME DO A SESSION WITH THE JOKER.

"SHE TOLD ME HE WAS AN ANIMAL, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. A FIEND WHO ENJOYED TWISTING THE MINDS OF THOSE STUPID ENOUGH TO TRUST HIM.

"I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO BE TAKEN UNAWARE, AND STUDIED UP ON ALL HIS JOKES, TRICKS AND GIMMICKS.



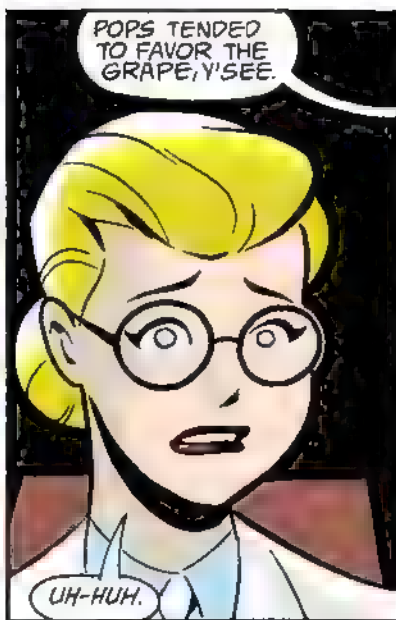
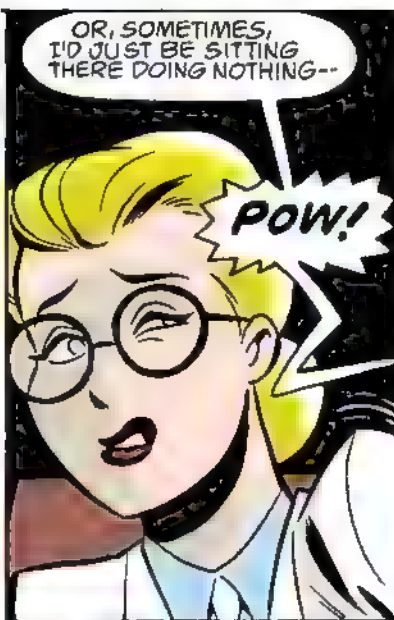
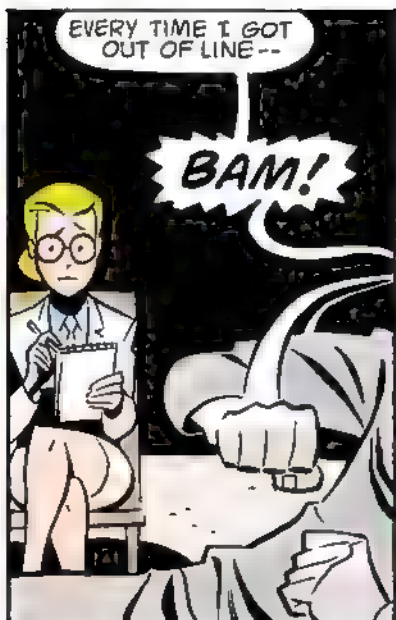
"THEN I WENT IN, READY FOR ANYTHING.

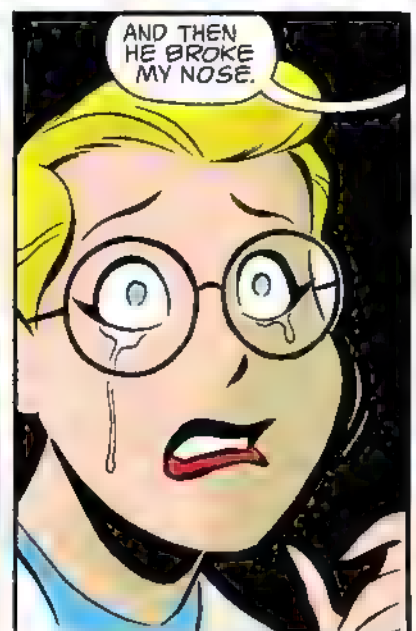
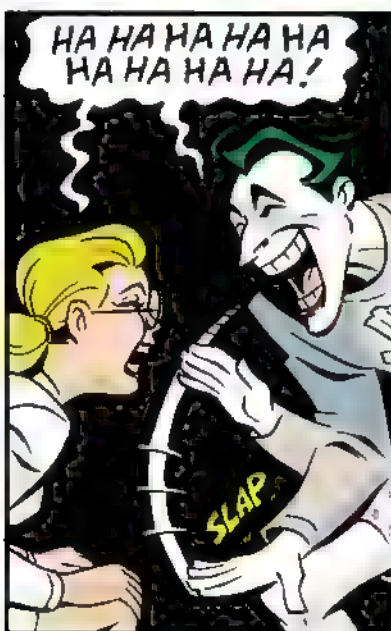
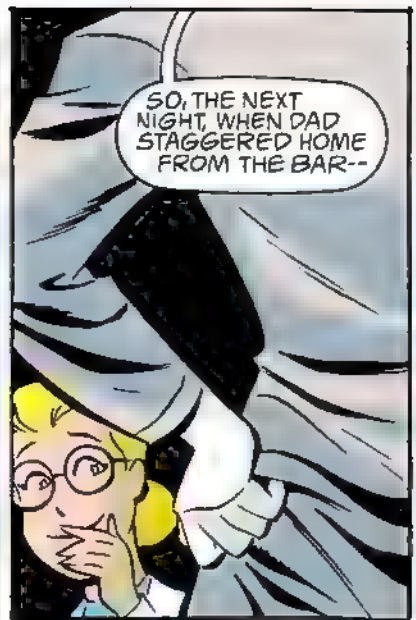
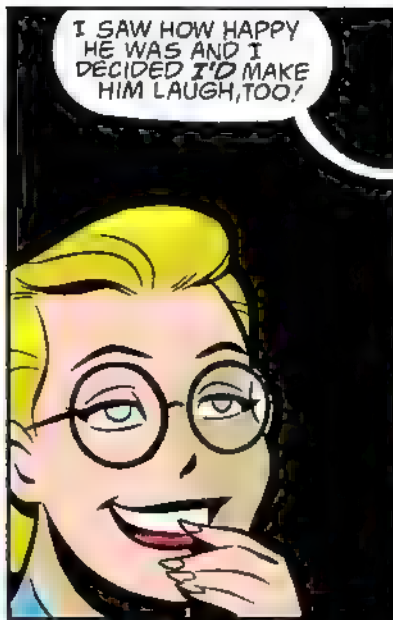


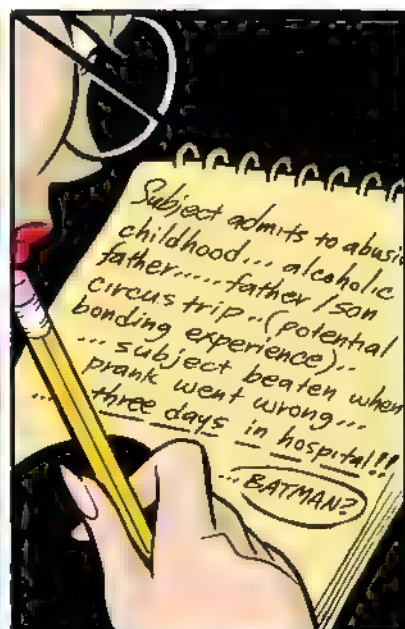
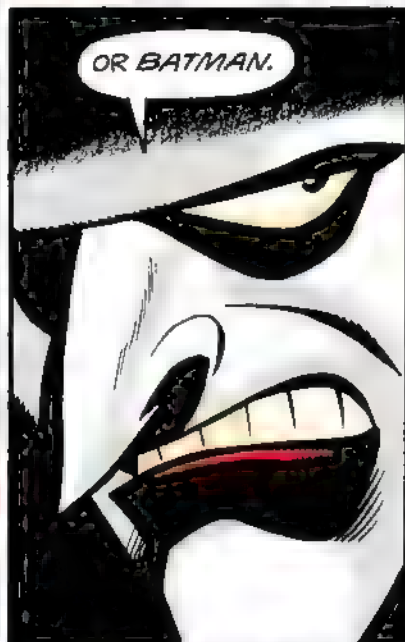
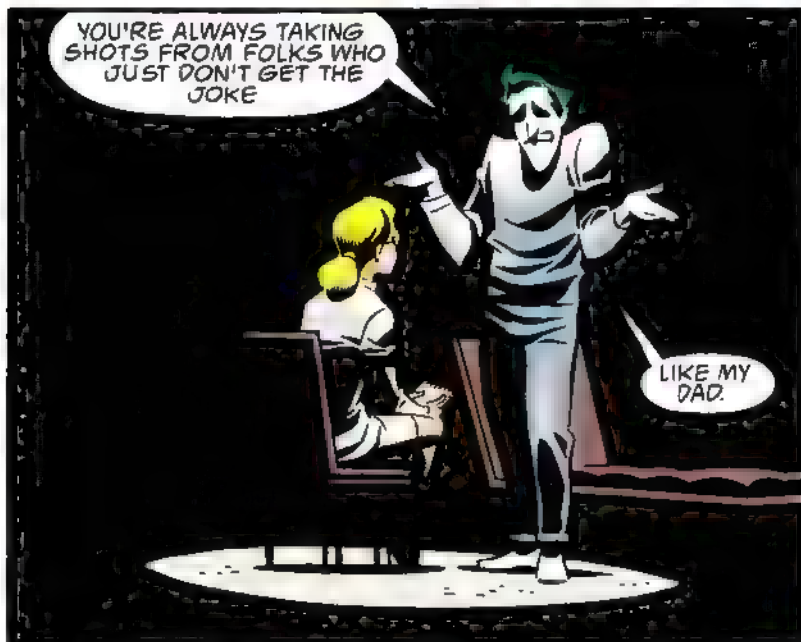
YOU KNOW, MY FATHER USED TO BEAT ME UP PRETTY BAD



"ANYTHING EXCEPT THAT.







"IN THE WEEKS AHEAD, IT SOON BECAME CLEAR TO ME THAT THE JOKER, SO OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A RAVING, HOMICIDAL MADMAN, WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A TORTURED SOUL CRYING OUT FOR LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE.

"A LOST, INJURED CHILD LOOKING TO MAKE THE WORLD LAUGH AT HIS ANTICS.

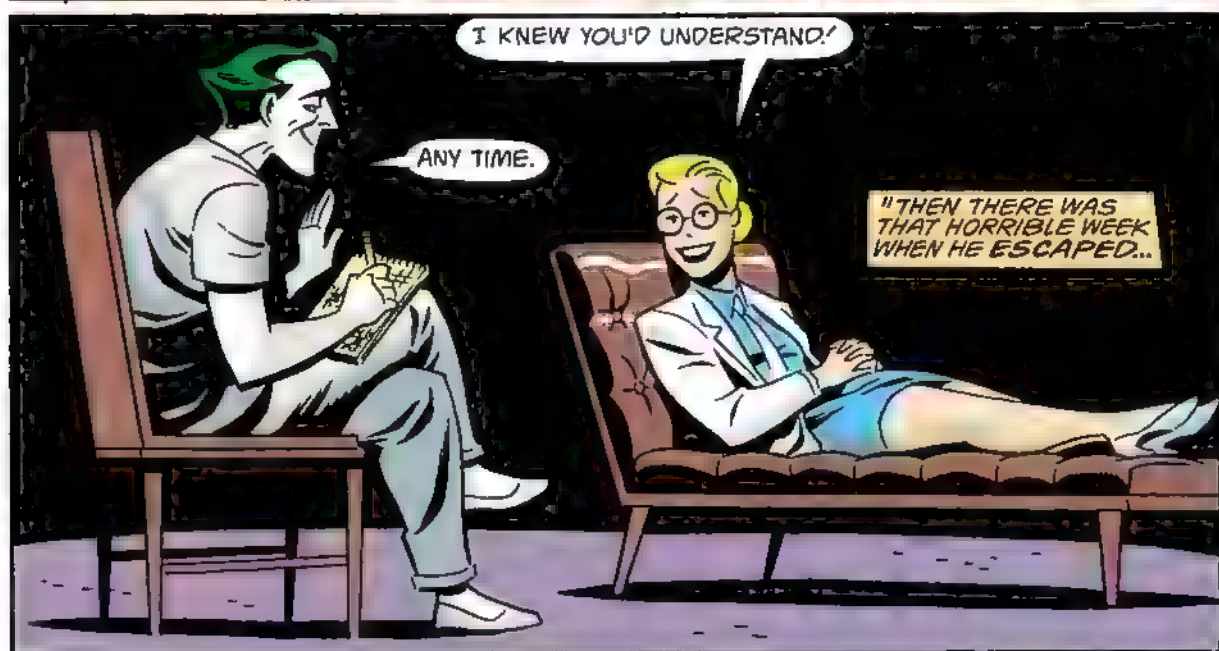
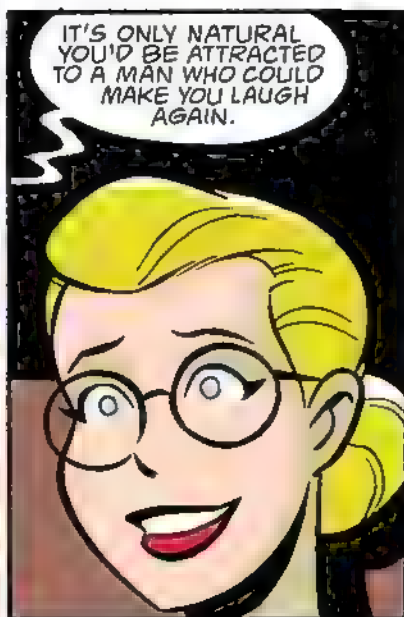
"AND THERE, AS ALWAYS, WAS THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS BATMAN...

"... DETERMINED TO MAKE LIFE MISERABLE FOR MY ANGEL.

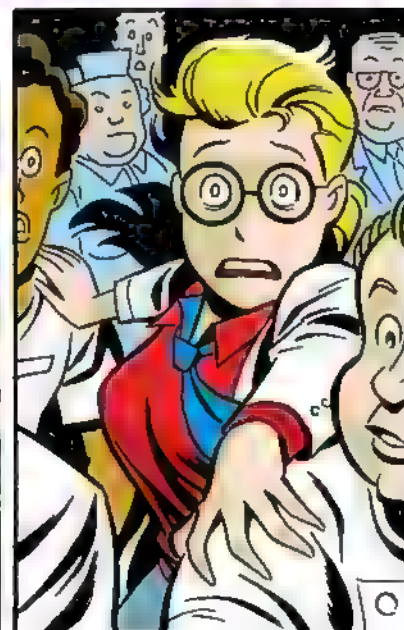
"YES, I ADMIT IT, AS UNPROFESSIONAL AS IT SOUNDS...

"... I HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH MY PATIENT.

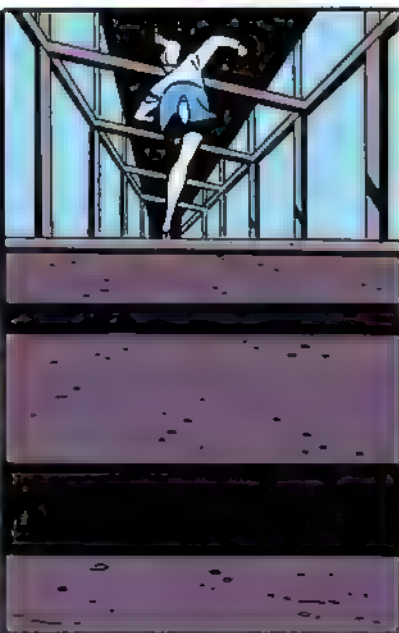
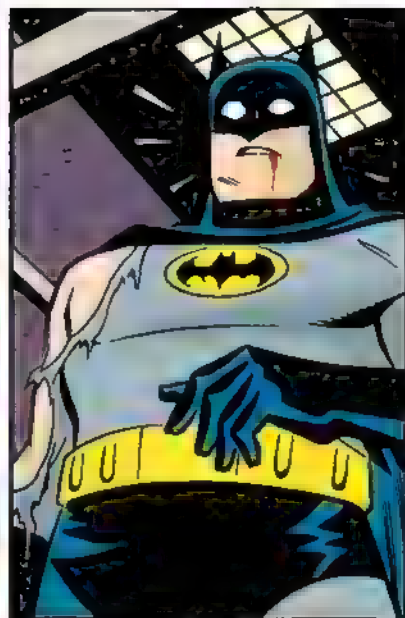
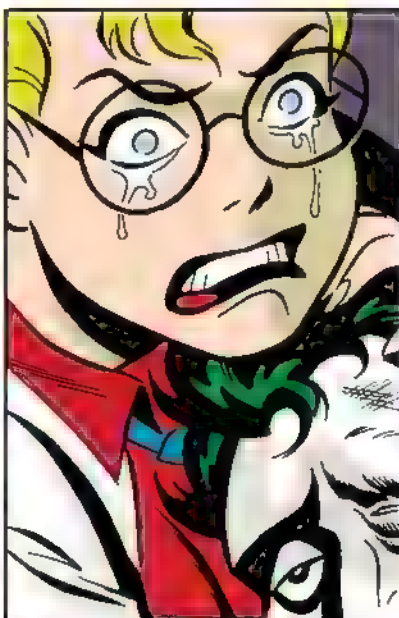
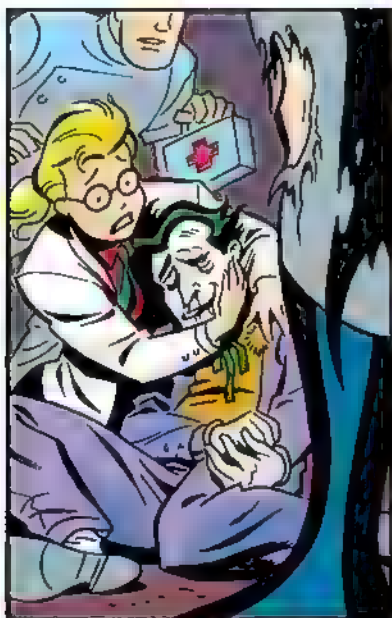


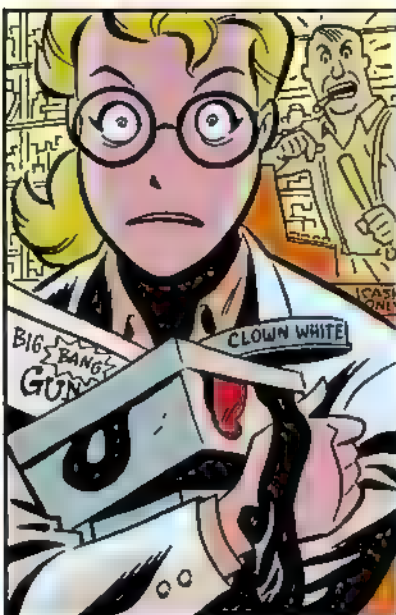


"...THE POOR THING WAS OUT ON THE RUN, ALONE AND FRIGHTENED. I WAS SO WORRIED!"







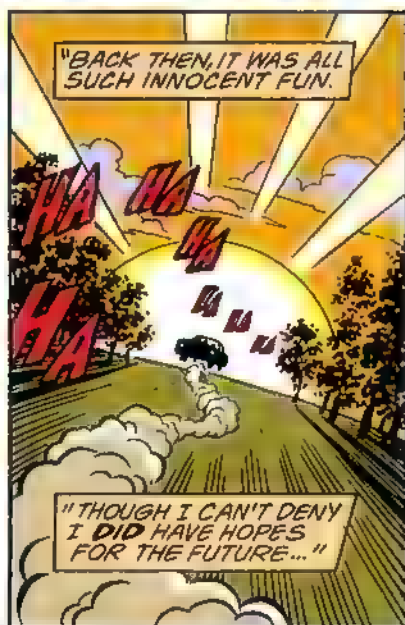
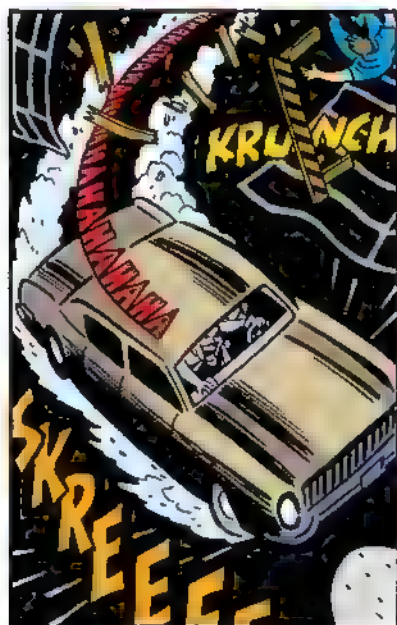
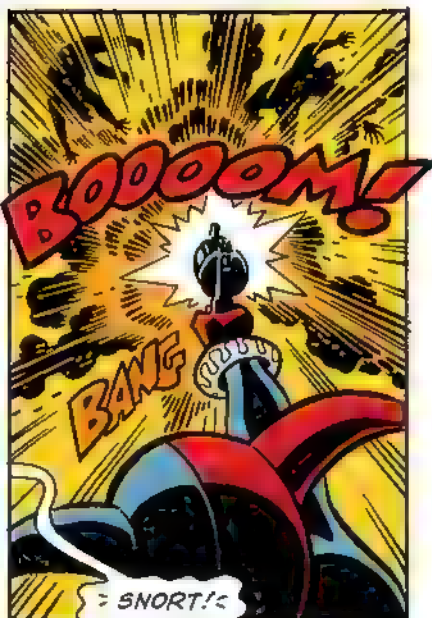




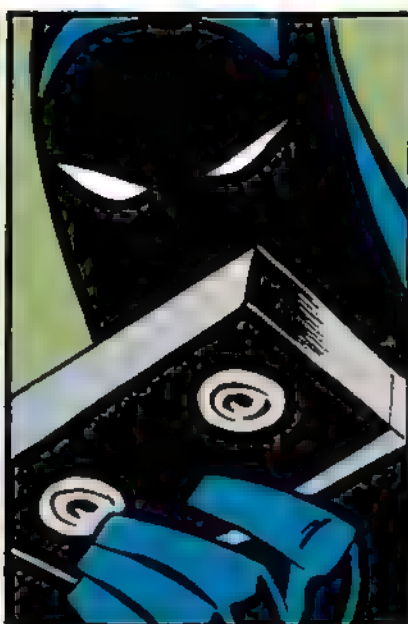
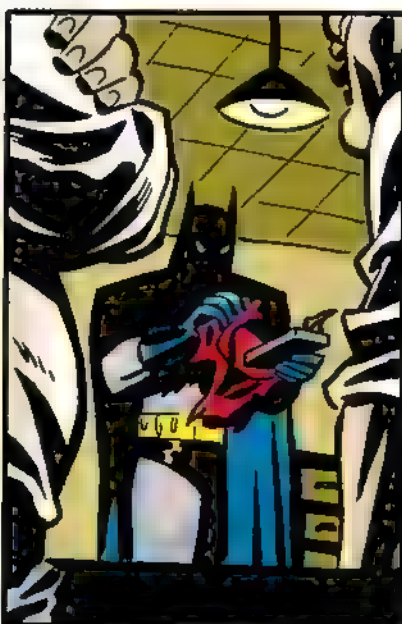
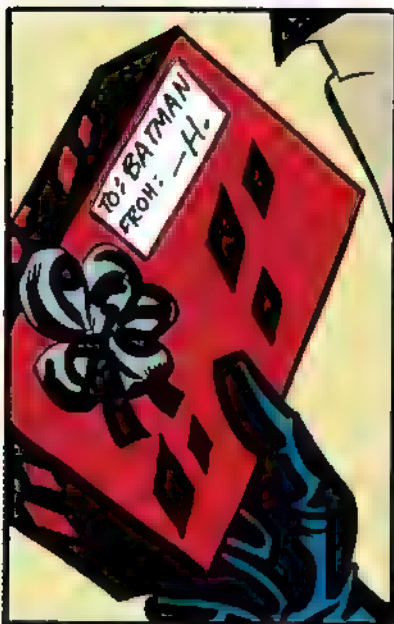
KNOCK,
KNOCK,
PUDDIN'!

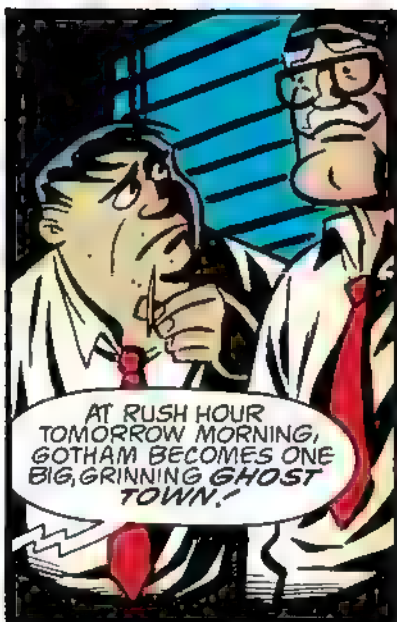
SAY HELLO
TO YOUR NEW,
IMPROVED...

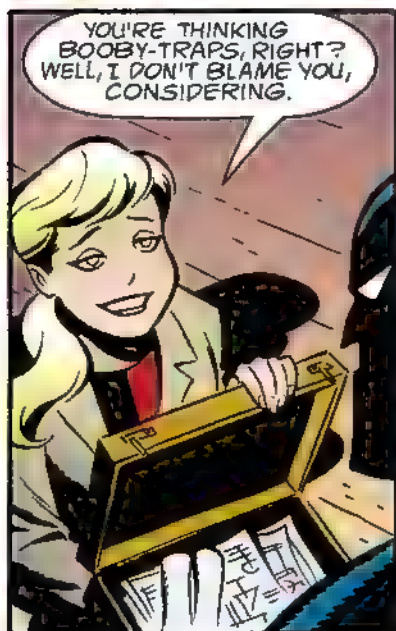
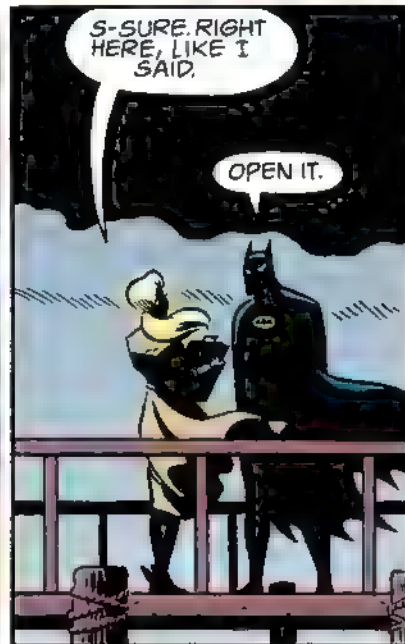
--HARLEY
QUINN!

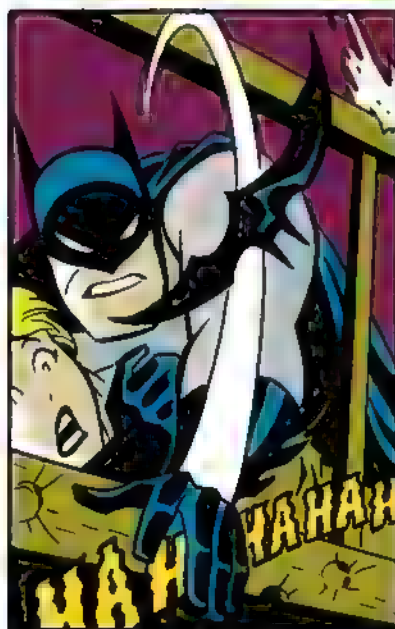


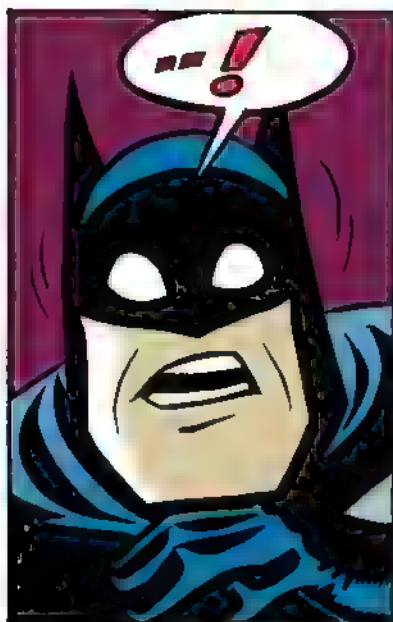












I TOOK OFF
THE BELT AND
TRIPLE-CHECKED
ALL THE KNOTS...



QUINN...

OH! YOU'RE AWAKE, FINALLY. GEE, THAT KNOCK-OUT DRUG REALLY KEPT YOU UNDER.

PLUS, YOU'VE BEEN HANGING UPSIDE-DOWN FOR A WHILE...



ALL THAT BLOOD RUSHING TO YOUR HEAD'S GONE AND MADE YOU A LITTLE LOGY. YEAH, I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE GETTIN' OUTTA THIS ONE ANYTIME SOON.

THE JOKER...

WHERE...?

GRAPE SODA

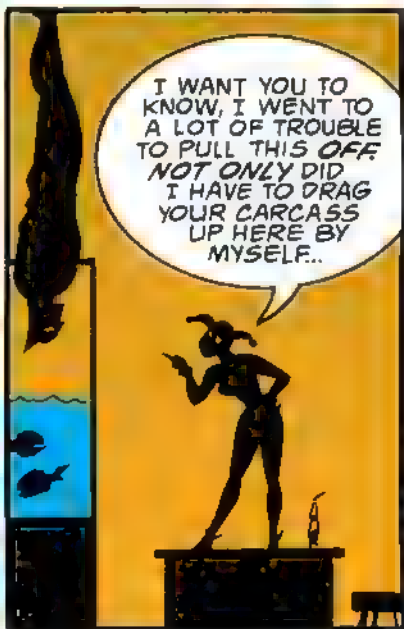


IT'S JUST ME, B-MAN.

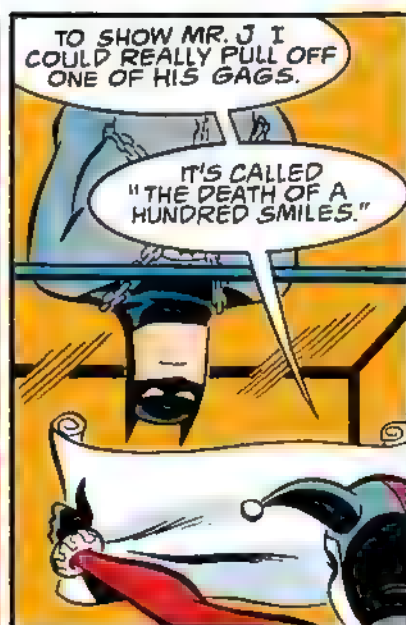
NO JOKER, NO GAS-BOMBS, NO CITY IN PERIL. JUST YOU...

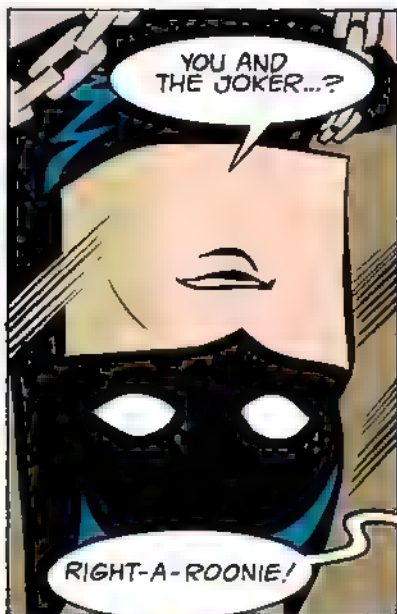
THAT TANK...

...AND ME.



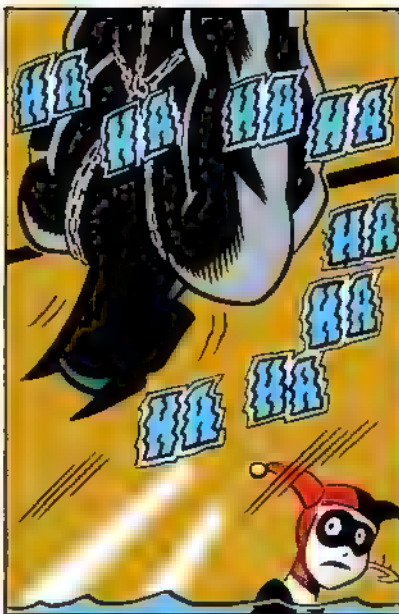
I WANT YOU TO KNOW, I WENT TO A LOT OF TROUBLE TO PULL THIS OFF. NOT ONLY DID I HAVE TO DRAG YOUR CARCASS UP HERE BY MYSELF...





YOU AND THE JOKER...?

RIGHT-A-ROONIE!



I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LAUGH BEFORE. I DON'T THINK I LIKE IT.

CUT IT OUT. YOU'RE GIVIN' ME THE CREEPS.

YOU'RE A FOOL.



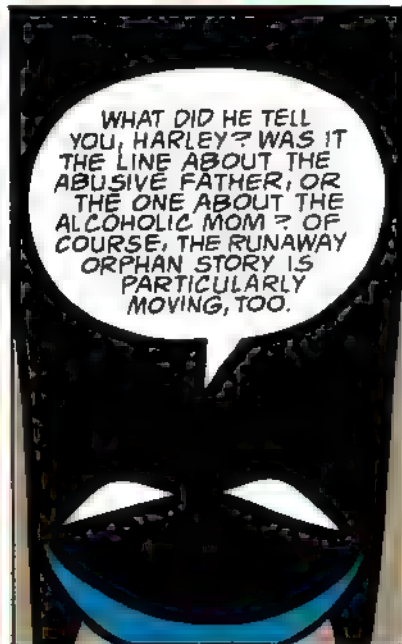
THE JOKER DOESN'T LOVE ANYTHING, EXCEPT MAYBE HIMSELF. FACE REALITY, HARLEEN--

JOKER HAD YOU PEGGED FOR HIRED HELP THE MINUTE YOU WALKED INTO ARKHAM.

THAT'S NOT.... NO.

NO!

H-HE TOLD ME THINGS, SECRET THINGS HE NEVER TOLD ANYONE...



WHAT DID HE TELL YOU, HARLEY? WAS IT THE LINE ABOUT THE ABUSIVE FATHER, OR THE ONE ABOUT THE ALCOHOLIC MOM? OF COURSE, THE RUNAWAY ORPHAN STORY IS PARTICULARLY MOVING, TOO.



HE'S GAINED A LOT OF SYMPATHY WITH THAT ONE.

STOP IT!!

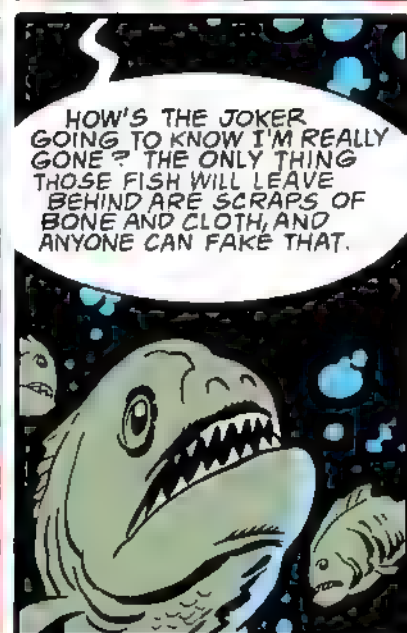
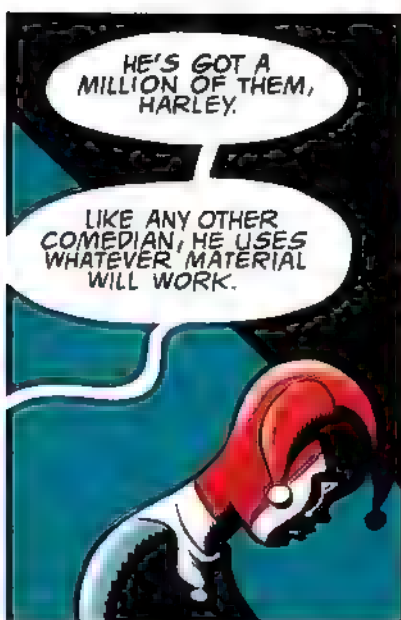
YOU'RE MAKING ME CONFUSED!

WHAT WAS IT HE TOLD THAT ONE PAROLE OFFICER?

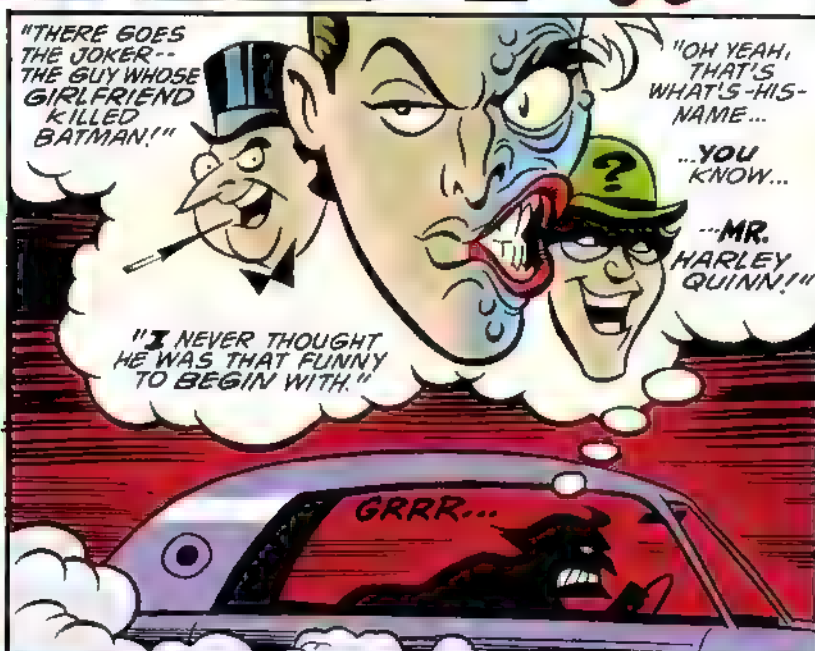
OH, YES...

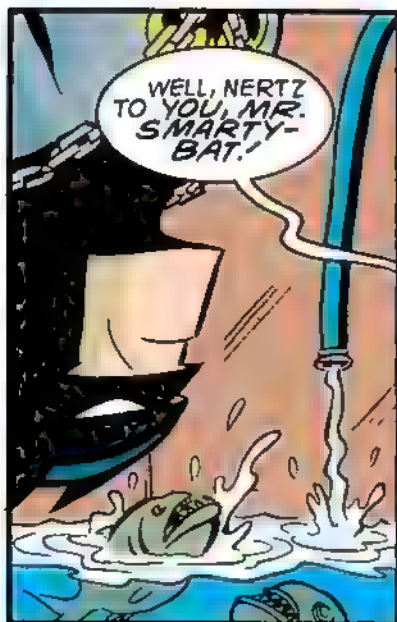


"THERE WAS ONLY ONE TIME I EVER SAW DAD REALLY HAPPY. HE TOOK ME TO THE ICE SHOW WHEN I WAS SEVEN..."









AND
THEN...



COOL

SO, YOU
WANNA FOOL
AROUND?

BLAM

OH, YOU...

=SIGH!=

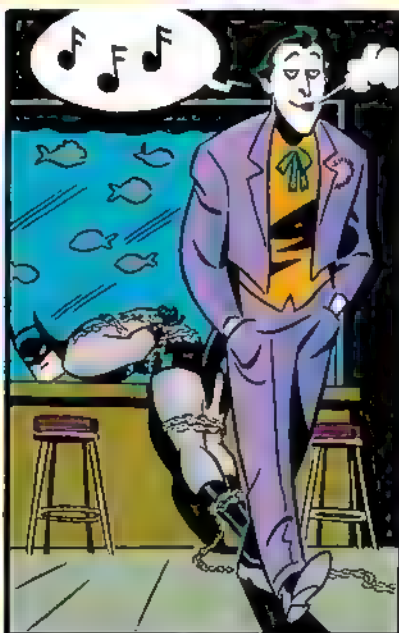
WARRLEEEY!!!



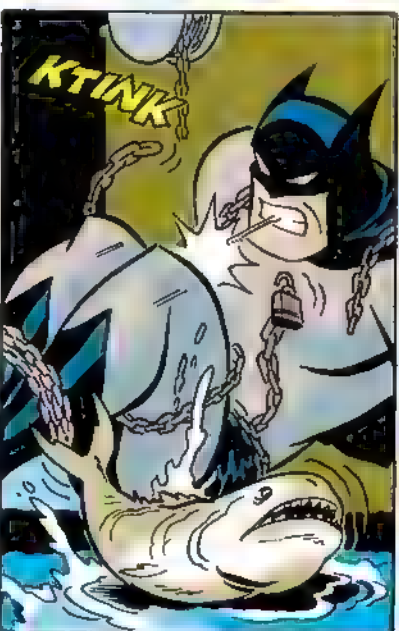
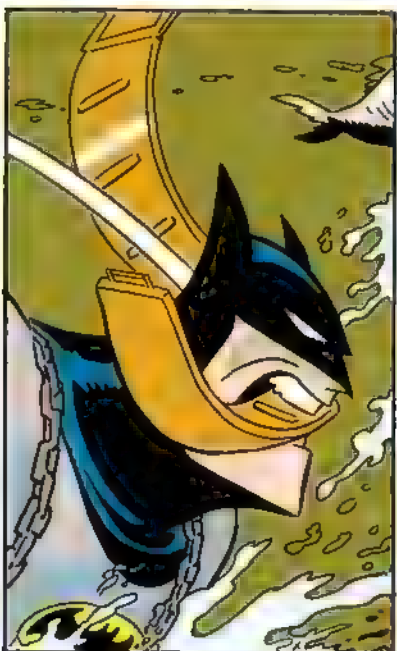
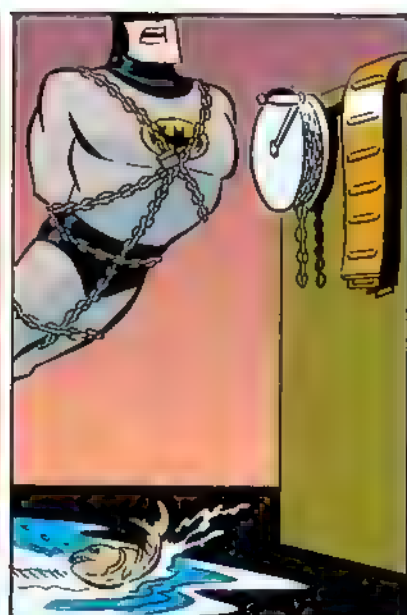
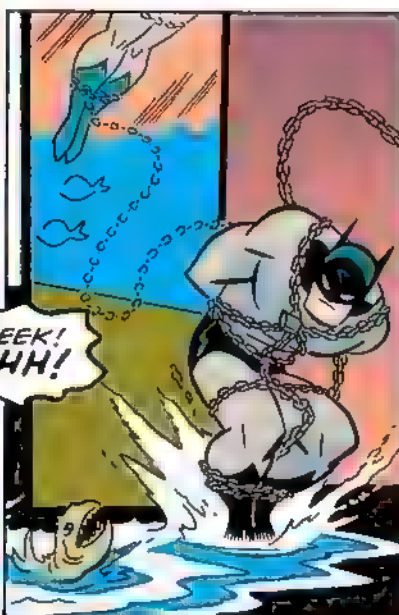
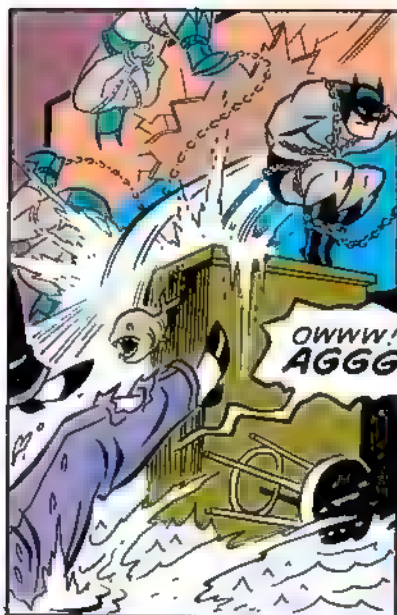


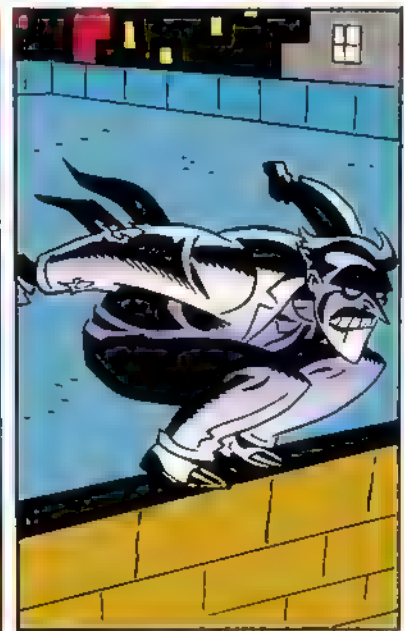
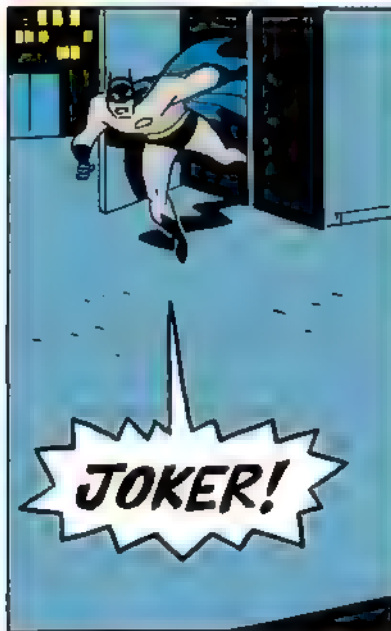
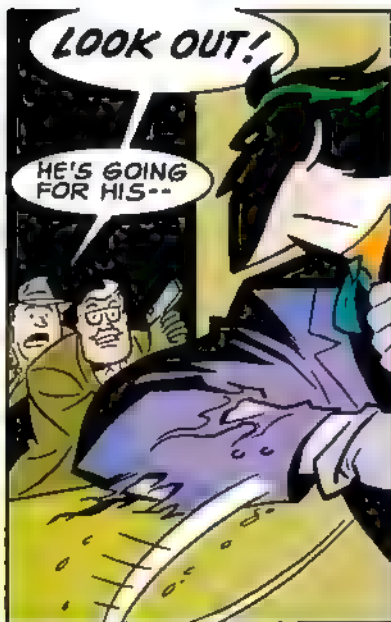


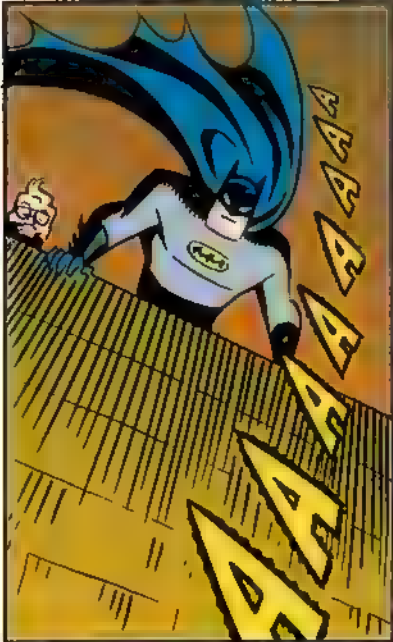
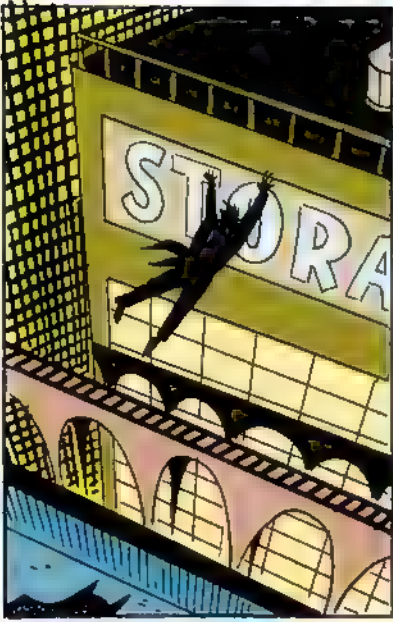


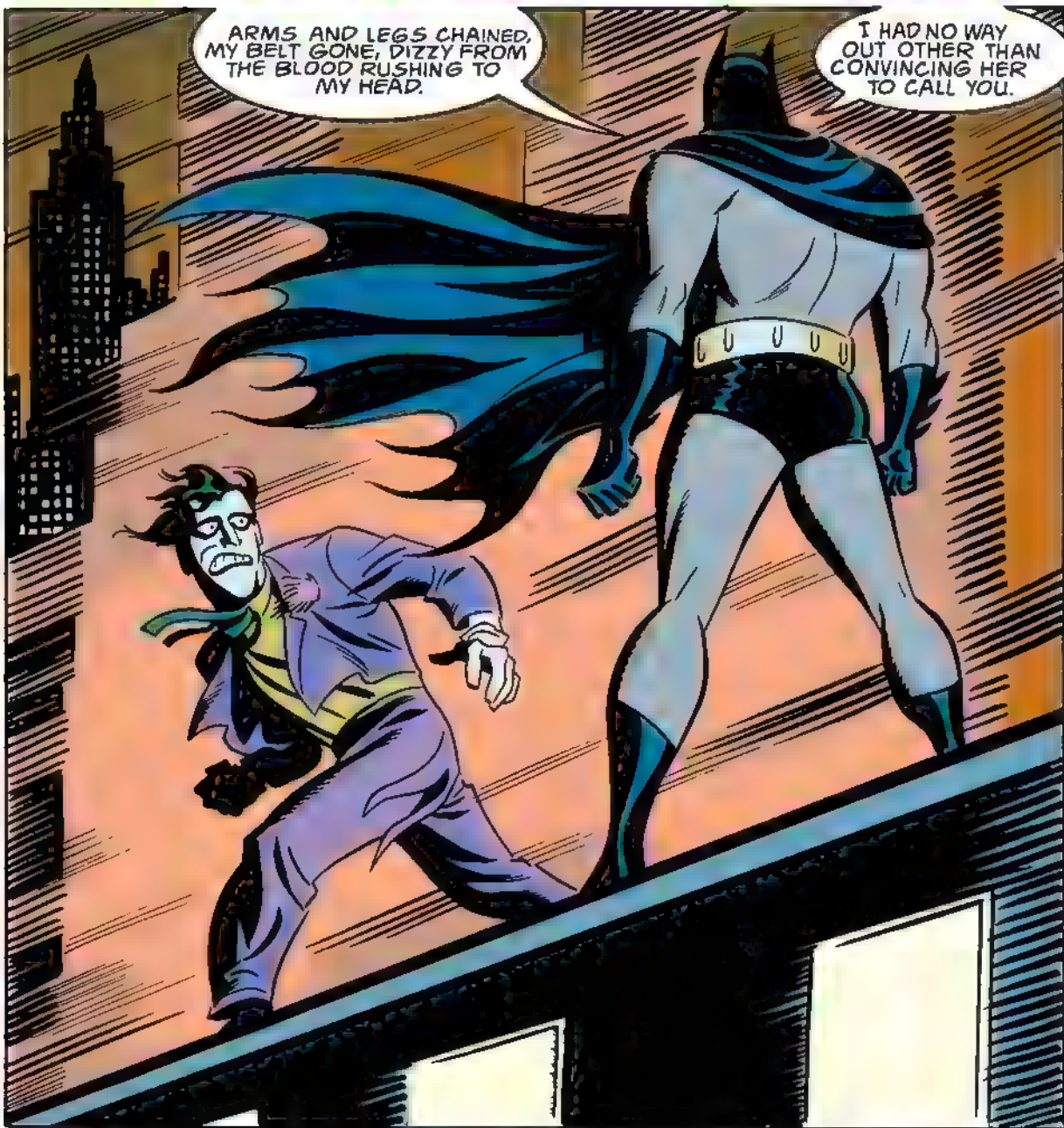


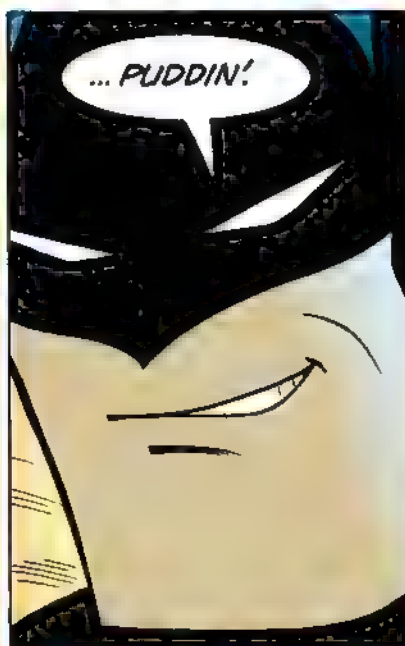






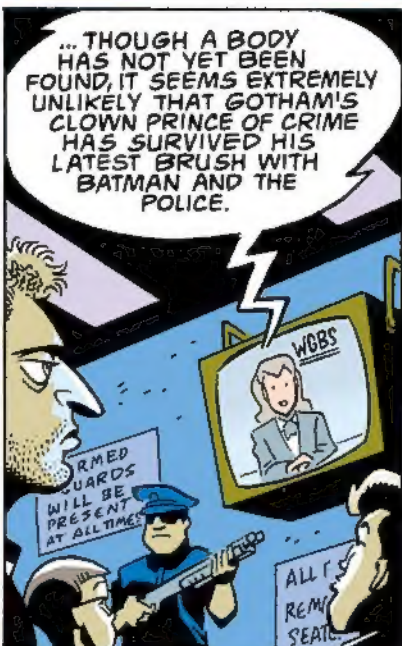














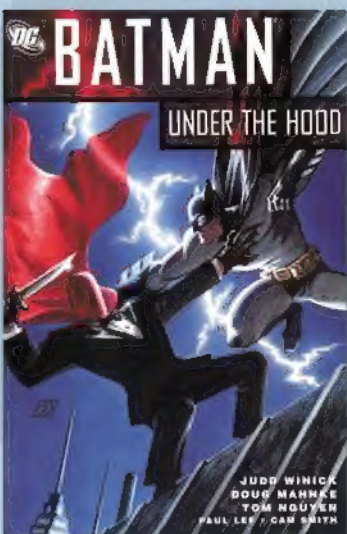
MORE CLASSIC TALES OF THE DARK KNIGHT

BATMAN: HUSH



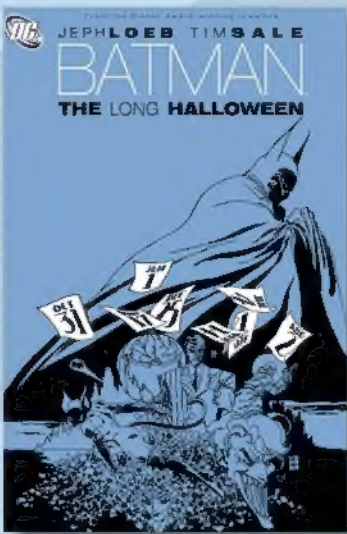
JEPH LOEB
JIM LEE

BATMAN: UNDER THE HOOD
VOLS. 1 & 2



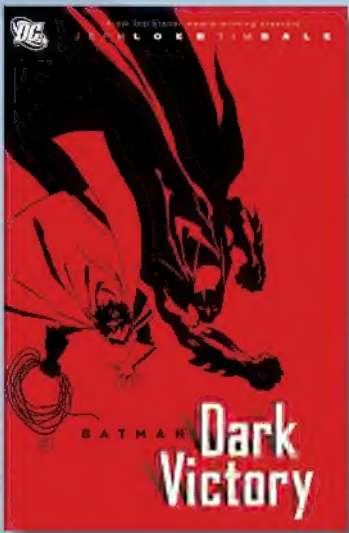
JUDD WINICK
DOUG MAHNKE

BATMAN:
THE LONG HALLOWEEN



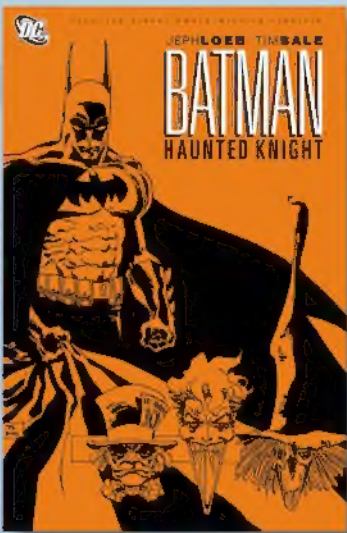
JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
DARK VICTORY



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
HAUNTED KNIGHT



JEPH LOEB
TIM SALE

BATMAN:
YEAR 100



PAUL POPE

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